

**Delaware Women's Suffrage Centennial Sub-Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 7, 2019**

**In attendance: Susan DelPesco; Rodney Smolla, Delaware Law School; Jack Young, League of Women Voters; Dick Carter, Reba Hollingsworth, Bradley Skelcher, and Sylvester Woolford, Delaware Heritage Commission; Connor Graham, Carlos Maldonado, and Corey Marshall-Steele, Delaware Public Archives; Nena Todd, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs; Melanie Rose Levin, Woman's Advancement and Advocacy; Courtney Stewart, Department of State**

1. Greetings and introductions of guests.

Dick Carter convened the meeting at 10:35. Guests in attendance introduced themselves, shared their background, affiliation, knowledge, and vision for the committee. Staff of the Heritage Commission and Public Archives offered their expertise in research, knowledge of history and events, and personal experiences. Staff of Public Archives offered their services for exhibits. Rodney Smolla offered the services of interns to assist the committee. Melanie Ross Levin offered IT resources, social media, and other resources. Susan DelPesco is in contact with the Director of the National Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission to explore ideas and potential financial resources. She also has connected with Delaware delegates from Vision 2020 to discuss events they have planned.

2. Discussion of House Concurrent Resolution 21.

The committee discussed the scope of their work, and focus of the events being planned by the committee. The committee unanimously agreed that a broad range of topics should be covered including the struggles that led to the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Topics include: the Seneca Falls Convention & Declaration of Sentiments and, highlighting the efforts, work, and experiences activists like Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Mary M'Clintock, and many others.

3. Nomination and election of Chair and Co-Chair of the subcommittee.

A motion was made by Rodney Smolla and seconded by Nena Todd to elect Susan DelPesco as Chair of the Subcommittee. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Without objection, Dick Carter declared Sylvester Woolford Co-chair of the Subcommittee.

4. Discussion of projects to be undertaken by subcommittee.

The initial discussion of potential projects included the following:

**Parade** – Susan DelPesco inquired about coordination and timing for a parade. The committee discussed best timing to allow for planning and participation. The committee discussed the pros and cons of spring vs. fall timing. In the fall, an additional event could be tied into the Returns Day Parade in Sussex County.

**Monument** – Dick Carter shared his experience with monuments and approximate costs. The committee discussed potential locations and the approval process.

**Historic Markers** – Melanie Ross Levin suggested exploring funding for historic markers as well. Potential location includes the Old State House.

**Informational Booklet** – Dick Carter suggested a booklet to go along with the monument dedication.

**Exhibits** - The committee discussed having exhibits in all three counties.

**Delaware Day** – There was discussion about making the Centennial the focus of Delaware Day.

#### 5. Other Business.

The National Centennial Commission is holding a meeting on June 3 in Washington, DC. The committee agreed there should be representation present. Melanie Ross Levin and Sylvester Woolford offered to attend.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 18 at 10:00am in the Tatnall Building, Room 112.